

Saint Louis Audubon Society

OUTDOOR FILM ADVENTURES

presents

DOWN UPON THE SUWANEE by Richard Kern

February 26, 1988 at the Webster Groves Christian Church

The magnificent Suwanee River emerges from the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia as dark as coffee, but as it loops through northern Florida on its way to the Gulf, it enters a world of artesian springs, some gushing more than 200 gallons of sparkling fresh water into the Suwanee every second.

Richard Kern dives into this amazing realm. Among great beds of waving aquatic plants, sunfish are chased down and speared by a diving snakebird while others court and lay their eggs nearby. A big alligator swims by. Time to get out of the water.

The story continues as cave divers lead a dangerous journey into the underwater cave system of Peacock Springs where many have lost their lives. In this eerie world of darkness, eels and albino crayfish move through branching limestone passageways that seem endless.

Not even Stephen Foster, who never really saw the river, could have imagined a world so strange and beautiful....down upon the Suwanee.

Richard Kern brings a fresh approach to the lecture platform. A biology graduate from Colgate University, he later served as officer of a Navy Swift boat in the Mekong Delta. His films have been seen on the T.V. series "Great Adventure" and "Lorne Green's New Wilderness". His home study seminar on how to film birds was published by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. His career has taken him from Florida to the Falkland Islands.

CALENDAR EVENTS

- Feb 6 Sat. 8 a.m. Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife. Meet at Knight's Lake parking lot approx. 0.2 miles west of Busch Headquarters parking area. Bring binoculars, lunch, beverage. To get there: Take 40 west across the Missouri river, south on 94 to D, turn right on D for 1 mile to the HQ.
- Feb 13 Sat. WATERFOWL HAVEN at Raccoon Ranch
Historically a high bird day for migrating ducks. To get there enter St. Charles by way of the old bridge via the St. Charles Rock Rd. Turn right off the bridge on 94. Follow 94 out of town and travel approx. 12 miles to Rees Rd. Turn left and go straight ahead to the ranch. Leaders: Cis and Charlie Hager
- Feb 26 8 p.m. Outdoor Film Adventure: DOWN UPON THE SUWANEE
Webster Groves Christian Church.
- Mar 5 Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife: 8 a.m.
- Mar 13 Monthly Open House at the Education Center. Program 1 p.m. MOSSES AND FERNS. Leaders: Peg Feigley and Lillian Nagle. Winter is the perfect times to direct your attention to the lower plants. Dont' miss this opportunity. For further info call Karen Haller.
- Apr 2 Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife: 8 a.m.
- Apr 10 Monthly Open House at the education center. Program at 1 p.m. :
Sunday INSECTS with Father James Sullivan. We will meet at the center for introductory session and then head to the lowers areas of West Tyson County Park in search of the six legged denizens. Ted McCrea will display his insect collection at the center.
- Apr 15 OUTDOOR FILM ADVENTURE SERIES: Natural Wonders of Ceylon
Friday 8:00 p.m. Webster Groves Christian Church.
- Apr 17 Bird walks in the park. Meet at the Art Museum parking lot.
Sunday at 8 a.m.
- Apr 24 Bird walks in the park. Meet at the Art Museum parking lot.
Sunday at 8 a.m.
- Apr 25 ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET! The Challenge of Everest: a multi media
Monday presentation on the 1985 attempt by team climber Brian O'Malley. See full page reservation sheet.
- Apr 29 Spring Meeting of the MO Audubon Society.
Friday To be held at the Shell-Osage area in S.W. MO. Host: Burrough's
Excellent shorebirding. 2 Camping areas available nearby.
Call Paul Bauer for more information.
- May 1 Bird walks in the park. Meet at the Art Museum 8 a.m..
Saturday
- May 7 Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife Area : 8 a.m.
Saturday
- May 8 Treat your mother to a stroll around the Education Center and
Sunday at West Tyson County Park. Leaders: Karen Haller and Art Crist.
- May 8 Bird walks in the park. Meet: 8 a.m. : Art Museum parking lot.
Sunday
- May 21 INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY: 8 P.M. : Leaders: Barbara and Jim
Saturday Walker & Doug Givens. Come enjoy a night of star gazing.
Several telescopes will be set up for speculacular viewing.

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

NEW EVENING AND NEW MEETING PLACE
!!!

All meetings will be at the
Boatman's Bank Auditorium 750 West
Lockwood, Webster Groves on the
THIRD TUESDAY of the month: 7:45
p.m. sharp.

February 16, 1988 "FARAWAY PLACES -
STRANGE SOUNDING NAMES"

Al Lodwick will show how to make a
unified presentation out of a
collection of unrelated slides.

March 15, 1988 - SOME DO'S and
DONT'S of WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY"

Donald R. Kurtz, Natural History
Land Specialist with the MDOC will
share his 15 years of work from the
midwest, Great Smokey Mtn.,
Southwest Texas and Arizona.

APRIL 19, 1988 - SO YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU PHOTOGRAPHED!

Bring 10 slides or prints you would
like identified; flowers, trees,
insects, fungus, lichens, mosses,
birds or other animals
or just about any nature subject. A
panel of experts will name your
subjects.

MAY 17, 1988 - "POLISHING YOUR
SKILLS" & "A POTPOURRI OF TIPS"

Ed and Lee Mason; photography
workshop instructors and freelance
photographer-writers present a
wealth of knowledge this evening.

Specially scheduled photography
walks and excursions will be
announced at the meetings.
Meetings are opened to the public;
you need not be an Audubon member
to attend. Everyone is welcome.
Come and bring a Friend. Our
meetings are informative and fun!
Weather conditions may necessitate
a cancellation of an event. If you
are in doubt - please call 968-8072
or 427-6311.

YOU AND YOUR CAMERA

So Old Santa left a camera for
you at Christmas? GREAT !

Before anything else, you want to
realize that anyone can make good
pictures with any type of camera!
The trick is to learn what your
camera can do: then learn what you
can do with your camera. The first
thing you should do is carefully
read the instructions that came
with your camera. Then read them
again.

Here are the three most common
errors in photography:

1. CAMERA MOVEMENT. When at all
possible use a tripod and cable
release. If you cannot do that,
then hold your camera firmly and
hold your breath as you gently
s-q-u-e-e-z-e the shutter button.
2. IMPROPER EXPOSURE. Is the film
speed setting right on your camera
exposure meter? Not only does the
box in which your film give you the
ISO value to set into the camera,
but it also has a very good guide
for the use of the film. Try to
avoid two great extremes in
lighting in a photograph -
something very light or very dark.
If you are using a flash, is the
shutter speed setting right to
synchronize with your flash? Is
your electronic flash "on"?
3. SUBJECT NOT PROPERLY FRAMED.
Check your composition and focus
once more just before snapping the
picture. Be sure to look what is
behind and around your subject to
avoid distracting backgrounds or
disturbing things that do not fit
into the picture. If the horizon
appears in your photograph, be sure
that it is LEVEL.

AVOID SPOILING YOUR PICTURES:

Load and unload your camera in
subdued light. For best results
have your film processed as soon as
possible after exposure. At home,
keep your film (as well as your
slides and prints) in a cool, dry
place. Always keep film away from
heat. Don't store it in the glove
compartment of your car on trips.
When traveling keep your film and
camera gear in an insulated
container in your automobile trunk
on the side away

from the exhaust.

BETTERING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY:
carefully and critically look at as many pictures as you can - in newspapers, magazine, displays advertisements not only for inspiration but to find out why you liked or disliked them. This will markedly improve YOUR composition. Most of all.... use your camera. Don't bring it out just for vacations or the holidays. The more you use your camera, the more at ease you will be with it, and the better you will become.

2 ROOST BOXES BUILT BY RALPH
HAVE BEEN PLACED AT
THE EDUCATION CENTER

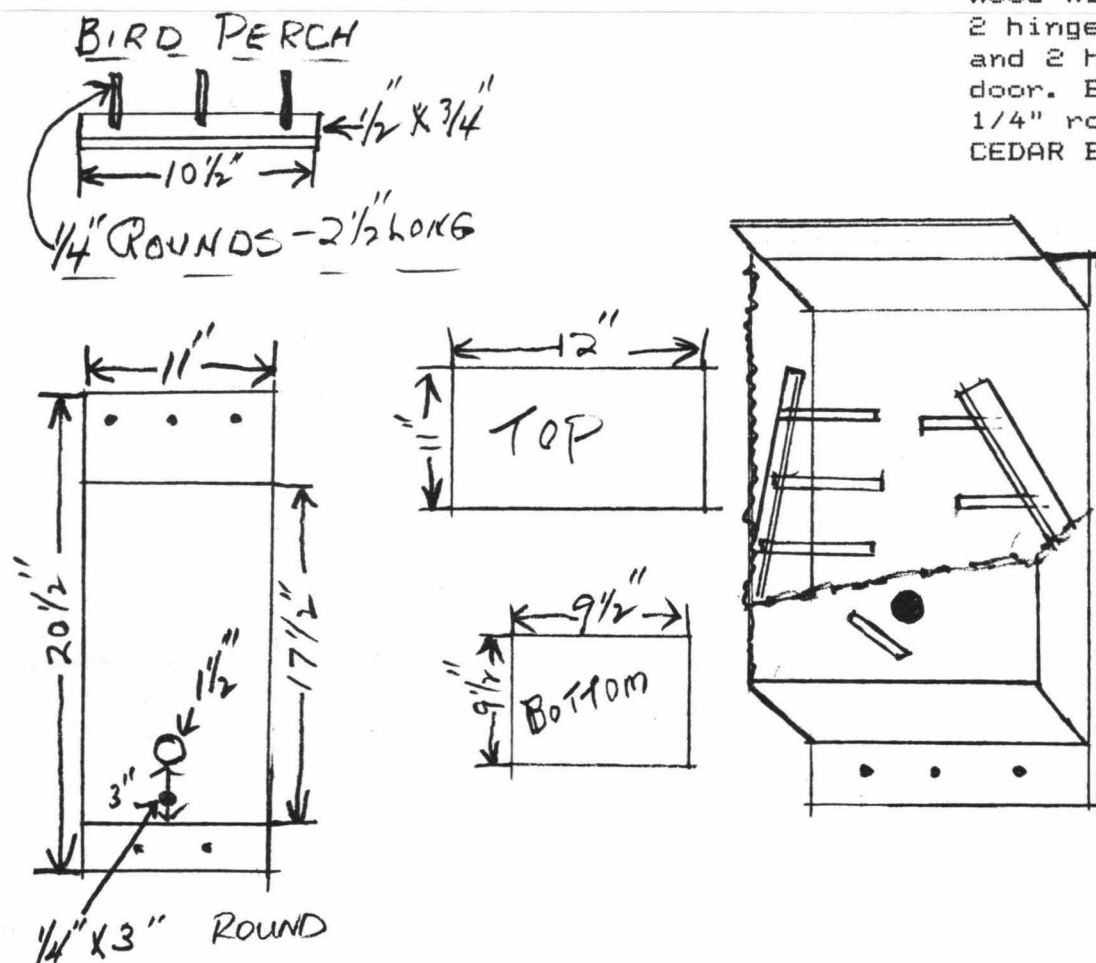
WHERE DO BIRDS GO WHEN IT TURNS COLD

by Ralph Cook

Birds seek shelter to survive. And roost boxes could provide that shelter to survive from snow, sleet and cold winds. They give the birds a dry place to sleep while being warmed by the combined heat of their bodies. As a result many birds will be around next spring that might not have survived.

During bad weather birds put aside their differences and many species that normally live in conflict may perch side by side in order to keep warm.

Place roost box 8 ft to 10 ft. high on the south side or protected side of a tree. Treat wood with walnut stain. 2 hinges for the top door and 2 hooks for the top door. Bird perches out of 1/4" rounds. CEDAR BOARD= 1"x12"x8'



CALENDAR

- DECEMBER 4
(Fri) Outdoor Film Adventure/ HIGH COUNTRY
At the Webster Groves Christian Church; 1320
Lockwood Ave. (near Berry Rd). Opened to the
Public.
- DECEMBER 5
(Sat) 8 a.m. Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife.
Meet at Knight's Lake parking lot approx.
0.2 miles west of Busch Headquarters parking
area. Bring binoculars, lunch and beverage.
To get there: Take 40 west across the Missouri
river, south on 94 to D, turn right on D for
1 mile to the HQ.
- DECEMBER 27
(Sun) 8 a.m. Christmas Bird Count at Busch Wildlife.
Helpers and area leaders needed. Call WGNSS
coordinator: Tom Parmeter at 921-6017.
- JANUARY 2
(Sat) Christmas Bird Count at Orchard Farm: St. Charles.
Helpers needed. Call WGNSS coordinator:
Randy Korotev at(h) 993-0055 or (w) 889-5637.
Meet at hwy 94 and B.
- JANUARY 9
(Sat) 8 a.m. Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife.
- JANUARY 15
(Fri) 8 p.m. Outdoor Film Adventure / My Wild Kentucky
Home. At the Webster Groves Christian Church
- JANUARY 23
(Sat) 8 a.m. Winter Gulls and Waterfowl on the Mississippi
Meet at the I-270 visitors center at Riverview Dr.
exit. Bring extra layers of clothing, food, binoculars
Leader: Bill Rudden.
- JANUARY 30-31
(Sat/Sun) EAGLE DAYS
Come visit and enjoy anytime from 8 a.m. to 4.p.m.
Hwy 79 North from I-70 turn right at Hwy n just north
of Winfield to parking lot at the dam.
- FEBRUARY 6
(Sat) 8 a.m. Monthly birding at Busch Wildlife Area
- FEBRUARY 13
(Sat) WATERFOWL HAVEN at Raccoon Ranch
Historically a high bird day for migrating ducks.
To get there enter St. Charles by way of the old
bridge via St. Charles Rock Rd. Turn right off the
bridge onto 94. Follow 94 out of town and travel
approx. 12 miles to Rees Rd. Turn left and go
straight ahead the ranch. Leaders: Cis & Charlie Hager.
- FEBRUARY 26
(Fri) 8 p.m. Outdoor Film Adventure/ Down Upon the Suwanee
Webster Groves Christian Church.

NEEDED: Creativity AND Work

In December 1983, the St. Louis Audubon Society inherited the Terry property, a 14-acre tract on Lewis Road, about a one half hour trip from St. Louis. The society has been trying to develop the place into an environmental education center. With the help of Boy Scouts and their leaders, and many individuals, we have established trails, set up a weather station, catalogued some of the flora and fauna, put the cottage on the grounds into good condition, and rented it to help with maintenance costs.

We have had several special programs - photography workshops, bird and wildflower walks, insect hunts, etc. In general, these have not been very well attended. We feel that we could generate interest and that our center can make a real contribution to the community if enough people work on it. The property was left to us with no strings attached; so we would be permitted to sell it if necessary. However, we have a unique opportunity and it seems a shame not to take advantage of it.

An endowment fund has been set up and several generous contributions already received to maintain the place and set up educational programs. Contributions to this fund are, of course, always welcome. Nevertheless, we need bodies to help - in a large variety of jobs to suit the taste. Here are some of them:

1. Give some time (even as little as one half day per month) to act as host or hostess at the center.
2. Bring guests to the open house on the second Sunday of each month.
3. Donate plants or seeds which would add variety and beauty to the trails.
4. Help with planting and weeding.

5. Lead nature walks or present a program on a nature-related subject.
6. Help with the odd jobs necessary to keep the house in good repair.
7. Create some outdoor exhibits that would withstand the weather.
8. Build a bird house or feeders.
9. Keep the birds provided with food.

If you feel that you could spare some time to help us, call one of these numbers and let us know what you can do;

Jerry Miller (389-3969)
Paul Bauer (921-3972)
Katherine Chambers (863-9346)

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION :

Want to polish your photographic skills? Join in the activities of the Photography Section of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Indoor meetings are the first WEDNESDAY of the month, October through May. No meeting in January. The time is 7:45 p.m. sharp at the Oak Bend Branch of the St. Louis County Library, 842 S. Holmes.

EVERYBODY WELCOME-- BRING A FRIEND!

December 2, 1987 : 7:45 p.m.
LEO and LAVERNE MOULT will take us on a photographic seasonal tour of Missouri and Illinois. They mostly use a 50mm lens, Kodachrome 64 film, and occasionally flash. Come see what can be accomplished with a minimum of photography equipment!

JANUARY: THERE IS NO MEETING OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

FEBRUARY 3 1988 : 7:45 p.m.
Popular decor photographer and extemporaneous speaker AL LODWICK makes a connected, unified presentation of a collection of unrelated photographs. See how he ties them together under the title: FAR AWAY PLACES WITH STRANGE SOUNDING NAMES.

A MINI- STUDIO
for
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
By Lee F. Mason

Results in close-up photography can be enhanced by the use of some uncomplicated studio techniques. During the coming "shutter-freezing" months would be a good time to experiment with a mini-studio for your nature photography. An inexpensive glass aquarium is perfect for the purpose. It will allow you to confine small reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders, ect, so you can give your full attention to your photography rather than chasing your subject. The aquarium can also serve as a staging area for all sorts of specimens in the plant and mineral world.

You must, of course, be careful that the material you use in the set is appropriate to your subject and its environment. With indoor staging you will likely want to blank out the view through the opposite side of the aquarium. Solid colored cardboard or cloth in blue or green will usually produce the most natural looking backgrounds. Black, however, which would be dramatic, produces an unnatural effect. Also, if your set up contains water and marine subjects, using black would make any debris in the water very obvious. If you elect to leave the back wall clear and uncovered you must be careful not to include any strong visual elements that will appear in your photograph. For instance, a post of shelving in the background would intrude even though it is out of focus.

When photographing one of the arthropods in a studio setup, you will have better control of your subject if you cool it in the refrigerator for 15 to 30 minutes. Be very careful in handling such subjects. Some are quite fragile; but you will find a "cooled" specimen will stay put while you fine tune your focus.

Lizards are ther hardest of reptiles to catch and bring home for studio shots, but also among the most interesting to photograph.

You can make amphibians more cooperative by putting them into the refrigerator for about half an hour before attempting to photograph them. When "refrigerating" a subject, put them in a container with air holes.

If you are going to photograph a non-poisonous snake in your "studio" (Missouri has 52 species and subspecies of which only five are venomous), you will have to treat them differently than the animals mentioned above. It is WARMTH that keeps a snake contented and relaxed.. You can keep one happy and beautifully coiled by training a lamp on it.

WHATEVER YOU DO MAKE IT A RULE
TO HANDLE YOUR WILD SUBJECTS WITH
CARE AND RELEASE THEM TO
THE WILD AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Light for your "studio" can be provided by natural sunlight or artificial means. When shooting your subject through the glass of your aquarium, shoot at an angle to the glass so your flash (if it is on the top of your camera) will not bounce its light into your lens. Glints and reflections in the glass of the aquarium from your camera or other objects around can show up in your picture. If shooting from an angle does not eliminate the reflections (you will see them in your viewfinder) then making a mask of blackened cardboard with a hole just large enough to accommodate the lens front should get around the problem. The blackened cardboard should be dull black and about a foot square.

With care in setting up your stage, proper placing of your light (flash, photofloods, sunlight) and camera; and careful handling of your subjects, you should be able to enjoy nature photography AT ANY SEASON AND IN ANY WEATHER.

SEND YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY
QUESTIONS TO : ST. LOUIS AUDUBON
PHOTOGRAPHY, 8410 Madeline Drive,
St. Louis MO. 63115. Your
question and the answer will appear
in a future issue of the Bulletin.

WE'RE BACK ON LINE AGAIN!

Look for us in the Yellow Pages !
We are listed as: The Audubon
Society of St. Louis and the St.
Louis Audubon Society: 938-6123.

St. Louis Audubon Society Officers
and Board of Directors 1987-1988

President - Paul Bauer
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Secretary - Marilyn Stobbs
Treasurer - Mary Lou Miller

Kyrle Bolte, jr.
Katherine Chambers
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Arthur W. Kerckhoff
William L. Kloppe
Jeanne Martin
Lee F. Mason
Wade C. Norman
Michael Siegle
Jane Stuessie (deceased)
William J. Toole

DONATIONS:

Webster Groves Garden Club
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Miller in
memory of Conrad Loher

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CHAIRMAN

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Maintenance/
Jim Ernst (966-2230)

Membership/
Katherine Chambers (863-9346)

Correspondence/
Betty Williams ()

Programs:Field Trips/
Karen Haller (227-5693)

Future Plans/
Dave Tylka (296-1419)

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Bill Wiese (965-2310)

Publicity (Education)
Michael Siegle (367-1664)

Photography/
Lee Mason (427-6311)

Annual Dinner/
William Toole (822-9143)

Art Show/Nature Crafts
Blane Ulmer (966-5425)